

Academy 2002 A Big Success

Approximately 240 registrants in attendance

By Peter Smith, N7BYP

Starting in January, a planning committee led by Marina Zuetell, N7LSL, met to prepare for Academy 2002, a two day training event for emergency communicators. Those assisting Marina in planning the academy included Terry Dettman, W7XS, Bill Dockstader, W7LSK, John Fiskien, KD7GEW, Rick Hodges, KB7TBF, Ralph Javins, N7KGA, Bruce Miller, KC7IAY, Pete Smith, N7BYP, Ann Werner, N7YDY, and Mark Whitaker, KD7KUN.

Now in its fourth year, the emergency communications academy is sponsored by the King County EOC Support Team, the Amateur Radio Emergency Service group for King County, Western Washington Medical Services Communications, Seattle Auxiliary Communications Service, and the Pacific Northwest React Council.

Because of heightened security at the NOAA facility, all academy participants had to be pre-registered for the confer-

ence. In addition entry and exit from the grounds was restricted to short periods at the beginning and end of each day.

The large number of attendees from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, and British Columbia taxed the NOAA facility to its limit. The auditorium was filled for the opening keynote presentation by Tom Carruba, KA2D. The two smaller breakout rooms used last year had to be opened into a single space to accom-

modate everyone. Breakout sessions were also held at the cafeteria and although the space was large enough to accommodate all, the lack of window blinds or shades made the use of projected materials less effective.

Bruce Miller, KC7IAY, arranged for online registration. This proved to be an excellent way to conduct conference registration. It also generated helpful attendance counts for conference events including all of the individual sessions.

Academy 2002 got off to a great start with Tom Carruba, KA2D, giving a first-hand account of amateur radio response to the events of September 11th. Tom serves as the ARRL ARES Section Emergency Coordinator and Assistant Section Manager for New York City and Long Island. In addition to reviewing the extent and nature of the amateur radio response to this large scale disaster, Tom discussed les-



Tom Carruba, KA2D, delivers the keynote address

Photo by P. Smith

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QRV?

QRV? = "Are you prepared?"

*QRV? is the Newsletter of the Seattle
Auxiliary Communication Service*

City of Seattle
Emergency Management

ACS Net & Disaster Coordination
Weekly Net, Mondays at 7:00 p.m.
146.96 MHz

ACS Primary Message Channels
441.80 MHz (tone 141.3 Hz)
443.00 MHz (tone 141.3 Hz)
443.65 MHz (tone 141.3 Hz)

ACS 6 Meter Frequency
53.250 MHz (tone 100 Hz)

ACS Website
www.cityofseattle.org/eoc/acs

State & County Nets
Washington State Emergency
Mondays at 6:30 p.m.
Saturdays at 9:00 a.m.
3.987 MHz

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King County ARES
Sundays at 8:00 p.m.
146.82 MHz (tone 103.5)

Please direct inquiries about the
Auxiliary Communication Service to:
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inquiries about QRV? to the editor:
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From the Editor

Less is More

Remember the saying: "less is more?" I think I recall it from the 70's during the time we were all struggling with the energy crisis, lining up at filling stations and wishing for small cars that would get lots and lots of miles for each precious gallon of gasoline.

At our recent Communications Academy Tom Cox VE7TOX, described the successful "Top Hat" exercises he carries out for emergency communicators in Vancouver B.C. As I listened to Tom, it became apparent that he valued the idea of "less is more." He stressed the importance of having fast and ready access to the essential information we'll need when we're called to service. Tom observed that detailed information may not be as useful for field operations in difficult conditions as concise guides containing essential information quickly available and ready to use.

Following this idea, I'd like to see us create a one or two page (both sides) set of instructions containing essential radio frequencies, messaging basics, a message format, and any other material we would find necessary for field operations. These instructions would be laminated and printed large to improve readability in poor lighting. They should be easy to put into our ready kits.

Now don't get me wrong. I'm not saying that detailed information is not necessary. If you've been maintaining your ACS notebook you have a good collection of necessary communications information. What I'm suggesting is a *supplement* to that notebook: simple laminated pages with essential information right at our fingertips. Both condensed *and* extended versions of communications instructions will be necessary.

Think about it. What information should be included on a ready page? At our next meeting we'll discuss it. Once we've determined the content, we'll make copies of a "ready page" and distribute it to you.

From the EOC

By Jim Mullen, Director
Seattle Emergency Management

This month, you may have noticed that the City Council approved the Mayor's request to establish an Emergency Preparedness Bureau within the Seattle Police Department. Oftentimes, "consolidations" of sections and units within a major City department receive a great deal of attention, and are promoted as ushering in a significant change in the way business will be done. Frequently, there is an expectation that major change will occur as a result.

The creation of the new Bureau will link Police Intelligence, Special Deployment and Emergency Management under an Assistant Chief. It makes sense, and it represents both a significant step forward from my perspective, yet it also represents a strengthening of the status quo as well.

Emergency Management has been in the Seattle Police Department for six years. The transition was at times difficult, and learning to adapt to the ways of a highly regimented system took considerable time. We have been supported very effectively, and operational oversight by a succession of Assistant Chiefs, and currently by Deputy Chief Kimerer, has been strong and steady. While none of that progress will be halted, the linkage into a new Bureau that establishes a daily focus for our efforts that is acknowledged as part of the ongoing departmental mission will strengthen our ability to contribute to public safety.

Basically, our mission hasn't changed, and our mandate to manage and support programs in disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery is enhanced, because this reorganization places us in the heart of the Police Department's efforts to deal with the challenges that a variety of natural and human-initiated disasters can present. We'll have more colleagues within the Department who are versed in Emergency Man-

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Personal Profile

Libe Napat, KB7WCE

The Personal Profile feature has returned to QRP? with this issue and features Libe Napat. Your editor interviewed Libe at the recent Academy 2002 conference at the Sand Point NOAA facility.

Libe is a native of the Philippines who came to the United States in 1987. He is a graduate of maritime school in the Philippines with a degree in marine engineering. Later, Libe served as an oiler/motorman on ships operated by Japanese and Norwegian shipping companies. Fascinated by marine band radio, Libe experienced how ship-to-ship radio communication could enable him to meet new friends and renew old acquaintances from maritime school. His marine band radio experiences led Libe to go for his amateur technician plus amateur ticket, eventually becoming licensed as KB7WCE in 1993.

Libe likes to work both VHF and UHF and, in addition to ACS, maintains memberships in two other amateur radio organizations. One of those is the Northwest Philippines-American Community Amateur Radio Club. This group has a repeater that can be found at 444.225 MHz. Libe is also a member of the West Seattle Amateur Radio Club.

Libe has been in emergency amateur radio communications for many years. He first became involved through an ARES informational meeting hosted by Gene Underwood, W7AKA. Not long after that he was recruited into the Seattle ACS by Mark Sheppard, N7LYE. In addition to his emergency radio activities, Libe has been active in organizing his neighborhood into a SDART team.

In view of his interest in VHF/UHF it won't be sur-

prising to learn that Libe has a good collection of Alinco and Icom transceivers. His QTH sports a two meter Cushcraft

Libe is gathering radios for general and emergency communications in those rural areas and would welcome donations of older and/or un-needed ham equipment.

vertical. One of his sons, Bijua, shares Libe's radio interests and is licensed as KD7GCC. Libe mentioned that with two

active hams in the family, his XYL may soon join them with her own ticket. Perhaps they'll study together because Libe plans to upgrade his ticket to extra class in the near future. With all the amateur radio activity in the family, Libe's other two sons, Dominic and Yanni, may join their older brother and become hams too.

Libe supports a radio club on Panay Island in the Philippines. Since there is no telephone system in the rural areas, the club would like to establish a communications system using marine band and ham radios. We can all appreciate how helpful such a radio system would prove to be for search and rescue efforts and for the general welfare of the people. Libe is gathering radios for general and emergency communications in those rural areas and would welcome donations of older and/or un-needed ham equipment. He also would like to receive donations of medical supplies for external use (such as bandages and antibiotic ointments). Okay, ACS members, lets all take a look around the shack and the rest of our homes to see if we have items Libe can use. He can be reached at (206) 228-1607 and (206) 932-7145.

In his non-radio life, Libe works as an electrician and belongs to Local 46 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. He enjoys camping, especially at campgrounds along the Washington coast. Asked for one of his favorite Seattle places, Libe mentioned the Alki neighborhood.

Libe has been a member of ACS since it started several years ago. We can count on Libe to help whenever we ask. It is faithful members like Libe who give freely of their time and expertise who really make up the heart of our organization. Thanks Libe, for your valued contributions to our group and your commitment to our mission.



Photo by P. Smith

Libe Napat, KB7WCE

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sons learned for organizational, technical, and personal preparedness.

Two years ago, the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) began its Certification and Continuing Education Program. Emergency communications was the first course to be offered. Terry Dettmann, WX7S, led sessions on emergency communication that focused on the ARRL's Introductory level (Level I) of certification. Attendees were given opportunity to take Level I qualifying exams at the Academy on Sunday.

Additional sessions were offered on how communities can organize to provide continued recovery after initial disaster response, the evolving protocols of digital communications, bioterrorism in the wake of September 11, radio direction finding and radio frequency interference, the Skywarn program, practical navigation with map and GPS, marine response & rescue, urban search and rescue efforts at ground zero soon after September 11, uses for NVIS antennas in regional emergency communications, tactical versus

formal emergency message handling, Western Washington earthquakes hazards, do's and don'ts for communications responders, Vancouver B.C.'s very successful TopHat competition, practical techniques for field communications and NOAA weather center tours.

Under the very able leadership of Ann Werner, N7YDY, great lunches and refreshments were served on both days. The weather cooperated with relatively warm and sunny days so attendees could easily go outdoors and check out the several communications trailers and vehicles available for inspection in the adjacent parking lots.

Congratulations to those who contributed to Academy 2002's success. First, thanks to NOAA for providing space and basic AV equipment. Thanks also to the planning committee who arranged registration, AV equipment, food, publicity, and program support. Finally, much praise and thanks go to Marina Zuetell, N7LSL, for exceptional leadership in making Academy 2002 not only possible, but a great success. — — — — —

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agement principles, and we will probably learn some things as well.

We are looking forward to a quick transition into the new Bureau, and as one of our most effective assets, continued support and attention to ACS and its members. We should emerge from this next few months a stronger team, with an even sharper vision of how we can best fulfill our respective missions. — — — — —

ACS Meeting

WHEN: Saturday, May 11, 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. (*Please arrive between 8:30-8:50, Late entry call 206-578-7118.*)

WHERE: Seattle Public Utilities Operations Control Center, 2700 Airport Way S.

WHAT: ACS Updates, Operations, Field Day Planning.

See you there!

QRV? - Seattle ACS
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Seattle Police Department
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